

REMARKS:

In deference to the restriction requirement in item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, Applicants elect Group I, product claims 1-15 for further prosecution at this time.

In deference to the election requirement in item 2 on page 3 of the above-identified Office Action, Applicants elect Species 1, embodiment of Figs. 1A-1H for further prosecution at this time.

Claims 1, 3, and 6-9 read on Group I, Species 1.

Applicants request consideration of the claims reading on the figures in other species upon the allowance of a generic claim. Claim 1 is believed to be generic. Applicants further request rejoinder of Group II, method claims 16-23 upon allowance of product claims under MPEP 821.04.

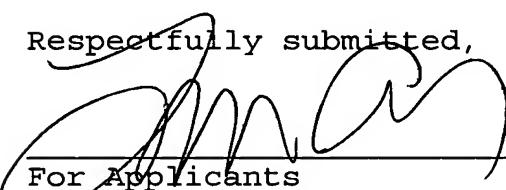
Applicants also reserve the right to file divisional applications regarding Group II as well as the other species at a later date.

Applic. No.: 10/673,966  
Amdt. Dated October 12, 2004  
Reply to Office action of September 10, 2004

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits of claims 1, 3, and 6-9, which read on elected Group I, Species 1 is solicited.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
For Applicants

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